

**(WO/2001/056756) TREATMENT OF NATURAL POLYMER BASED MATERIALS AND THE PRODUCTS BASED THEREON**

Biblio. Data	Description	Claims	National Phase	Notices	Documents
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Latest bibliographic data on file with the International Bureau



**Pub. No.:** WO/2001/056756 **International Application No.:** PCT/AU2001/000100  
**Publication Date:** 09.08.2001 **International Filing Date:** 05.02.2001  
**Chapter 2 Demand Filed:** 17.08.2001

**IPC:** *B27K 3/34* (2006.01), *B27K 5/00* (2006.01), *D21H 25/06* (2006.01), *D21H 17/07* (2006.01), *D21H 17/56* (2006.01), *D21H 23/30* (2006.01)

**Applicants:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION [AU/AU];  
 Limestone Avenue Campbell, Australian Capital Territory 2612 (AU) (*All Except US*).  
 GUTOWSKI, Wojciech, Stanislaw [AU/AU]; (AU) (*US Only*).  
 RUSSELL, Lee, Joy [AU/AU]; (AU) (*US Only*).  
 BILYK, Alexander [AU/AU]; (AU) (*US Only*).  
 HOOBIN, Pamela, Maree [AU/AU]; (AU) (*US Only*).  
 LI, Sheng [AU/AU]; (AU) (*US Only*).  
 FILIPPOU, Con [AU/AU]; (AU) (*US Only*).  
 SPICER, Mark [AU/AU]; (AU) (*US Only*).

**Inventors:** GUTOWSKI, Wojciech, Stanislaw; (AU).  
 RUSSELL, Lee, Joy; (AU).  
 BILYK, Alexander; (AU).  
 HOOBIN, Pamela, Maree; (AU).  
 LI, Sheng; (AU).  
 FILIPPOU, Con; (AU).  
 SPICER, Mark; (AU).

**Agent:** PHILLIPS ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK; 367 Collins Street Melbourne, Victoria 3000 (AU).

**Priority Data:** PQ 5449 04.02.2000 AU

**Title:** TREATMENT OF NATURAL POLYMER BASED MATERIALS AND THE PRODUCTS BASED THEREON

**Abstract:** A method for modifying a substrate containing a natural polymeric material to improve its interaction with other materials, the method comprising: A) Treating the substrate containing the natural polymeric material with a modifying agent selected from the group consisting of organo-functional coupling agents and multi-functional amine containing organic compounds; and B) optionally exposing the substrate containing natural polymeric material with one or more treatments selected from the group consisting of: i) subjecting the substrate to extraction with a solvent to reduce the content of extractable materials associated with the natural polymeric material prior to or during treatment with the modifying agent; ii) treatment with a physical field selected from static physical fields, high-frequency alternating physical fields; and combinations of two or more thereof either prior to, during or after treatment with the modifying agent; and iii) oxidation of at least part of the natural polymeric material prior to or during treatment with the modifying agent.

**Designated States:** AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PK, PL, PT, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SZ, TD, TH, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VE, VG, VI, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

LV, MW, NZ, NZL, NY, NYN, NYX, PA, PAZ, PC, PCZ, PL, PLT, PLZ, PO, SD, SE, SG, SI, SN, SL, TO, TR, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.  
African Regional Intellectual Property Org. (ARIPO) (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW)

Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM)  
European Patent Office (EPO) (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR)  
African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Publication Language:	English (EN)
Filing Language:	English (EN)